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CORRECTED MARKED-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. [Use of a dietary fiber or mixture of dietary fibers for manufacture of] A method of manufacturing a composition for prevention, inhibition and/or treatment of systemic infections in humans and in vertebrates caused by pathogenic bacteria, comprising combining a dietary fiber or a mixture of dietary fibers with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, optionally in the presence of one or more physiologically active substances, to form the composition, wherein the composition is in conventional galenic form suitable for oral or rectal administration or for tube feeding.

4. [Use] The method according to Claim 1, wherein the dietary fiber is selected from the group consisting of lignin, cellulose, hemicellulose, pectin, gums, arabic gum, carrageenan, waxes, resistant oligosaccharides, oligofructose, resistant polysaccharides, resistant starch and fructan.

5. [Use] The method according to Claim 4, wherein the fiber is a fructan selected from the group consisting of levan, inulin and oligofructose.

6. [Use] The method according to Claim 5, wherein the fiber is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization (\overline{DP}) of at least 20.

7. [Use] The method according to Claim 6, wherein the fiber is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization (\overline{DP}) of at least 25.

8. [Method] A method for the prevention[, inhibition and/or treatment] of systemic infections in humans or vertebrates caused by pathogenic bacteria comprising administering to said humans or vertebrates a composition containing an effective amount of a dietary fiber or a mixture of dietary fibers.